

and the likelihood of its extension. Responding to this directive, the U.S. Attorney argued that the costs of failure to reauthorize the USPC were so high, and the constitutional issues so serious, that reauthorization was essentially guaranteed. "Congress itself has expressed concern over potential ex post facto problems that a failure to authorize might create," the U.S. Attorney wrote, relying on language from the legislative history of the Parole Phaseout Act of 1996. "Constitutional requirements, specifically the ex post facto clause, necessitate the extension of the commission or the establishment of a similar entity authorized by statute to perform its functions."

The Third Circuit crisis in 2008 led Congress to reauthorize the USPC just in time, but only for another 3 years. The ordeal dealt a serious blow to the USPC. This year, we seek to obtain reauthorization not only well ahead of time, but to avoid a ritualistic reauthorization of a permanent law enforcement agency every 3 years. It will be particularly important to bear in mind that the close call the USPC had in the Third Circuit, could be repeated in the other 11 circuits. It is clear that a timely, simple reauthorization would have been beneficial to all concerned—the USPC, Congress, and the courts. I ask Congress to permanently extend the USPC to ensure the smooth and constitutional operation of the Federal and District of Columbia criminal justice systems.

HONORING VALERIE KUTZLER
AND AUDREY ZAMICHAH FOR
WINNING THE HONORING OUR
FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two students in my district, Valerie Kutzler and Audrey Zamichaw, from East Islip High School.

Valerie and Audrey will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, they wrote their own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Valerie and Audrey for their academic and personal achievements and congratulate them upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR
REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to honor Congressman DALE KILDEE on the occasion of his twenty thousandth vote.

Congressman KILDEE has proudly represented Flint area residents in Michigan's State House, State Senate and U.S. Congress for over 46 years.

Only missing twenty seven votes during his thirty three years in Congress, with a large portion of those during a hospital stay, Con-

gressman KILDEE has been nicknamed the "Cal Ripken of Congress". His strong work ethic demonstrated in his exceptional voting record has also translated into many legislative victories.

Throughout his career, Congressman KILDEE has been a champion for children, from serving as a local high school teacher, to Chairman of the House Page Program, to working to establish child protection measures and additional development programs for children as a Member of Congress.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, and as the Democratic Chairman of the Congressional Auto Caucus, Congressman KILDEE has been a tireless supporter of auto workers in Michigan and around the nation, helping to establish worker retraining programs and new job opportunities. Through these efforts, Dale was able to establish a Job Corps Center in Flint to provide vocational and academic training for young people with the goal of helping them to improve their own quality of life.

I am proud to serve alongside my good friend DALE KILDEE, who has been a fighter for the people of Michigan; from his avid protection of our Great Lakes, to his support for worker protection laws and support of children's education. DALE has served as a mentor to me throughout my career in Michigan public office and I am proud to call him a friend, and happy to be able to congratulate him on the occasion of his 20,000th vote here in the House of Representatives.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN
CHARLIE WILSON

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman Charles Wilson, who passed away on February 10th, 2010. Representative Wilson was a great statesman who served the 2nd Congressional District in Texas from 1972–1996.

Charles was born in a small town in Texas, where he developed a deep sense of pride as a Texan and a strong dedication to the American way. As a young man he served in the United States Navy where he rose through the ranks and was given the privilege to serve as part of a Soviet Union nuclear intelligence unit based out of the Pentagon. While serving in the military, 27-year-old Charles was able to effectively run for and win the office of State Representative in his native Texas. This began a 12-year political career in Texas that earned him the nickname "liberal from Lufkin".

In 1972, Wilson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he became most recognized for his role in the dismantling of the communist Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. He deeply believed in the sovereignty of the Afghani people and was able to use his influence on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to help provide the funding for their liberation. Although the media has primarily focused on his accomplishments abroad, Charles always maintained Lufkin, Texas as one of his number one priorities. Some of his greatest domestic accomplishments include the creation of the 100,000-acre

Big Thicket National Preserve and the Lufkin VA Hospital.

Madam Speaker, Charles Wilson was a political giant who brought his Texas-sized gusto for democracy and his passion for serving the American people to our Nation's capitol. He will be greatly missed not only by his wife and sister, but by the American people.

HONORING CHRISTINA CAPUTO
FOR WINNING THE HONORING
OUR FUTURE LEADERS COM-
PETITION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a student in my district, Christina Caputo, from Half Hollow Hills West High School.

Christina will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, she wrote her own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Christina for her academic and personal achievements and congratulate her upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING GREG FIRST OF
ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg First of Zephyrhills, FL. For most of his life, Greg has been a faithful servant to his community, volunteering himself to many causes which have helped to enrich the lives of many.

Born to Jimmy and Mary First in Bedford, Ohio, Mr. First moved to Zephyrhills with his family at the age of ten. After graduating from Zephyrhills High School, he attended the University of Maryland and served in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972.

Mr. First has volunteered himself, quite literally, having donated a total of 16 gallons of blood while Director of Public Relations for Blood Net, in addition to volunteering for Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, and a local hospice. He has kept up the spirits of Zephyrhills residents as an announcer for Main Street parades and high school football games. A three-time president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. First has been a Christian Radio DJ, a lifetime Am Vet member, and he even started his own local news website, "What's Up Zephyrhills?"

Madam Speaker, on February 26, the city of Zephyrhills will honor Greg's achievements. I ask you to join me today to honor him on the floor of the House. May we all give back to our communities as much as Mr. First has.